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Item 11 of the provisional agenda*

REGIONAL COOPERATION

Admission of new members to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and amendment of the terms of reference of the Commission

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, at its forty-eighth session held in Beijing from 14 to 23 April 1992, considered the applications of Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan for membership in that Commission and recommended to the Economic and Social Council for their inclusion in the geographical scope of the Commission and their admission as members of the Commission (see E/1992/65, sect. I.A).

2. Following that session, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, on 20 May 1992, addressed a formal communication to the Executive Secretary of the Commission conveying the decision of that Government to seek membership in the Commission. Following consultations with the Legal Counsel of the United Nations, the Executive Secretary brought the application of Uzbekistan to the attention of the Chairman and the members of the Commission and requested that their views be conveyed to him by 15 June. In that communication, he also informed them that if no contrary views were received by that date, he would recommend to the Secretary-General that the application of the Republic of Uzbekistan for membership in the Commission be conveyed to the Economic and Social Council for consideration at its substantive session of 1992 and action, along with the recommendation of the Commission for membership of the four other countries as mentioned above.

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3. As at 15 June, many responses have been received from members of the Commission in support of the membership of Uzbekistan. No contrary view was received. In the light of those developments, the Secretary-General is pleased to convey the application of Uzbekistan to the Council, which may wish to consider and accept that application for full membership in the Commission. Accordingly, the Council may amend paragraphs 2 and 3 of the terms of reference of the Commission to include the Republic of Uzbekistan in the geographical scope of the Commission and approve its admission as a member of the Commission, when it considers the recommendation of the Commission with regard to Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

4. The Executive Secretary also received on 16 June 1992 a similar formal communication dated 25 May 1992 from the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan requesting the admission of that country as a member of the Commission. Since this case is similar in nature to that of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Secretary-General is also pleased to convey the application of Kazakhstan for full membership in the Commission, for the Council's consideration and acceptance. The Executive Secretary had, in line with the earlier procedure followed, brought urgently the application of Kazakhstan to the attention of the Chairman and the members of the Commission, with the request that any contrary views should be communicated to him by 26 June 1992, for bringing the same to the attention of the Council when the application is considered by it. A favourable decision on the application of Kazakhstan by the Council will entail revision of paragraphs 2 and 3 of the terms of reference of the Commission to also include that Republic in the geographical scope of the Commission and as a member of the Commission.